DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

news release

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FEDERAL GRANT PROGRAMS FOR SPORT FISH AND WILDLIFE RESTORATION EXAMINED IN FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

A final environmental impact statement has been issued on two Federal grant programs designed to strengthen State efforts to manage and restore game and nongame animals and fish, the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has announced. The draft version of the statement was published for public comment on June 30, 1978, and was the subject of a public hearing in August.

The statement examines the programs authorized by two public laws—
the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act (Dingell-Johnson Act or D-J)
and the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (Pittman-Robertson or P-R).
It considers the impacts on populations of big and small game, migratory
game birds, sport fish, nongame fish and wildlife, threatened and endangered species, and the related impacts on land, air, and water quality,
soils, and economic conditions. The statement also discusses six alternatives to the current programs, all of which would alter the degree of
Federal funding or control.

In fiscal year 1978, \$87.2 million was made available to finance approved State projects for acquiring or improving suitable habitat, research, and restoration and management of fish and wildlife. These Federal funds come from excise taxes on firearms, ammunition, archery equipment, fishing rods, and certain other fishing tackle. The funds are

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apportioned to each State according to its land area and the numbers of hunting and fishing license holders. In addition, a certain portion of funds is distributed on the basis of population, and may be used by the States for hunter education programs.

Projects to be funded are selected by the State, but must be approved by the Fish and Wildlife Service. If approved, the State is reimbursed for up to 75 percent of project costs.

Copies of the statement are available at the following locations:

Director (FA) U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Washington, D.C. 20240

Regional Director (FA)
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Lloyd 500 Building, Suite 1692
500 N.E. Multnomah Street
Portland, Oregon 97232

Regional Director (FA)
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 1305
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103

Regional Director (FA)
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Federal Building, Fort Snelling
Twin Cities, Minnesota 55111

Regional Director (FA)
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 95067
Atlanta, Georgia 30347

Regional Director (FA)
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
One Gateway Center, Suite 700
Newton Corner, Massachusetts 02158

Regional Director (FA)
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 25486
Denver Federal Center
Denver, Colorado 80225

Alaska Area Office (FA) U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1011 East Tudor Road Anchorage, Alaska 99507

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